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Tuesday, November 28, 2023

Total 20 pages

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Shindig shenanigans

The 10th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig took place Friday at the Haliburton Legion, in support of the Fuel for Warmth campaign. Highlanders flocked to the Legion where they were treated to music, dancing, raffles and holiday cheers, all in support of the Fuel for Warmth charity. The Adverse Conditions provided the soundtrack for the evening, keeping people moving on the dance floor and those at home watching the live streamed event. Hosts Maple Syrup (Victoria Bingham) and Patsy Pine (Amy Brohm) kept the crowd entertained throughout the evening. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo

County closes rail trail to side-by-sides

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Allowing more motor vehicles to travel the Haliburton County Rail Trail would be detrimental to other users' safety.

Sylvin Cloutier, the county's dep-

uty director of public works, delivered to county council Nov. 22 details about allowing side-by-side (SxS) vehicles on

All-terrain vehicle associations from Kawartha (KATVA) and Haliburton (HATVA) highlighted to the county in June that allowing SxS vehicles could be

They asked for a two-year trial period of allowing SxS vehicles on the Haliburton County Rail Trail (HCRT). Also at that June meeting, the Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT) group expressed concerns about SxS vehicles and the impact they could have on the trail system.

The county's Committee of the Whole requested staff to report back with additional information related to the interaction and compatibility of different types of uses; bylaw enforcement; effects on the trail surface; trial costs to be incurred; the options for the trial period; experience

see TRAIL page 3



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Jolly Saint Nick

Santa waves to the crowd before heading back to the North Pole during the Haliburton Santa Claus Parade on Friday, Nov. 24. The theme for the parade this year was A Storybook Christmas focusing on classic children's Christmas stories. Before over 45 floats headed down Highland Street, Gord Kid led carolling during the lighting of the village's Christmas Tree. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff





Haliburton Rotary displayed A Charlie Brown Christmas on their float during the parade. Club president Aaron Hill waves to the crowd dressed as Charlie with Ursula Devolin offering Christmas advice as Lucy.



Jack Brezina walks in the parade as Father Christmas.







Heritage Ballet dancers promote their production of The Nutcracker coming up on Dec. 9 and 10.

Ottawa gives \$30M for tourism development

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As Christmas nears, tourism operators will find the federal government is in a giving mood.

Businesses and organizations in southern Ontario can apply for tourism funding through the Tourism Growth Pro-

Administered by the federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, the program aims to foster growth and competitiveness for Canada's tourism industry and to strengthen local More than \$30 million is available to businesses and organizations in southern Ontario to develop tourism attractions and experiences that will draw people to Canada and its communities.

About 15 per cent of the investment will support Indigenous-led tourism initia-

Filomena Tassi, the minister responsible for the agency, said tourism is an important part of Canada's economic prosperity. Communities across southern Ontario and Canada offer a variety of exciting experiences to visitors.

"The profound economic impact of tourism cannot be understated," Tassi said. "Every year, southern Ontario attracts millions of visitors to enjoy its natural beauty, vibrant events and festivals, unique rural and Indigenous experiences, and world-class destinations.

'Our region is home to countless attractions like the wineries in Niagara and Prince Edward County, the natural beauty of the Rideau Lakes and the Thousand Islands and, of course, the sites and scenes that our large cities, like Toronto, have to offer."

Tourism businesses and organizations that highlight attractions are the key to unlocking our region's potential and contributing to the local economy.

By developing local tourism attractions and experiences, those businesses and groups are positioning Canada as an allseasons destination of choice. Applications are currently being accepted.

Tourism businesses and organizations can visit the Tourism Growth Program in southern Ontario page to see if they are eligible and apply.

When it comes to tourism, Canada has what the world wants—and it's no surprise that we're a tourism powerhouse,' said federal Tourism Minister Soraya Martinez Ferrada.

'As a government, we have a responsibility to help the industry grow and thrive so it can keep contributing to Canada's prosperity. The new Tourism Growth Program will help Canadian tourism seize opportunities and create jobs, and I look forward to seeing the difference it makes in communities across this land."

Trail not suitable for more vehicles

from page 1

of other communities who have permitted side-by-sides on trails; a potential fine structure; and recommendations related to vehicle size limitations and allowable driver age

The HCRT is a multiuse facility already permitting specific motorized vehicles and restricting certain types such as motor bikes and SxS.

According to a staff report brought to council: FoRT believes that with approval of SxS, "The HCRT will become an all-out motorized recreational highway that the county could not in any good conscience offer to residents or visitors as a safe or attractive greenspace amenity.'

In their request, the HATVA/KATVA acknowledge the concern about how to prevent the trail from becoming a motorized only trail. In their submission, the association contend that there is no possibility of this happening if the trails are managed properly

Examples of municipal multiuse trails that allow SxS were provided by the associations, trails that are shared with walkers, joggers, cyclists, horses, families with children and seniors.

But Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, isn't buying that.

Carter said he's perplexed about adding more vehicles to a narrow trail.

I think this trail is intended to be a multi-use trail," he said. "I don't see how I can take my family, children, grandchildren, or dogs along a trail where there's

vehicles that are travelling at 50-kms/hr.
"I just don't think that would be responsible of me to do that."

Warden Liz Danielsen, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said the issue has been one of the more contentious ones for council in a decade or longer.

"It's supposed to be a multi-use trail and I do see that we are leaning far more towards motorized use than we are the idea of a multi-purpose trail," she said. "I know that there are arguments to be made on both sides of the fence with respect to the benefits to our economy from side-bysides, from ATVs, from snowmachines.

"But I also think that we might be failing in looking at the benefits to our economy from cycling as well."

More motorized vehicles on the trail will mean more challenges for walkers, cyclists, and hikers. The trail is also there for more passive uses, she said.

"There are the naturalists who enjoy the condition that the trail is in now," Dan-

Allowing even a two-year trial period may permanently alter the trail's use. There are questions about bylaw enforcement and trail maintenance.

"We may even have to widen the trail," she said.

Coun. Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor, said the lugs on ATV tires could really tear the trail up.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux, who is also the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said there are a number of other trail systems devoted to such vehicle use. What the county is missing are trails dedicated

to use by cyclists, she said.

"We don't have one, apart from the rail trail, which is multi-purpose," Dailloux



Jolly joggers

Nearly 50 participants joined the 10th annual Jolly Jog at the Haliburton Museum on Nov. This year's theme was holiday hats. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff





'Just as strong as men'; celebrating women firefighters in the County

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

As you walk past kids' clothing in

stores, it's always the same.

The gendered sections; butterflies and sparkles in hues of pinks and purples on one side. Dinosaurs and trucks in muted blues and greys on the other.

The racks of tiny T-shirts, telling kids their interests, their hobbies, their passions, without them even knowing.

And of course, anyone can be interested in any of those things. A gender shouldn't define a person, nor should a shirt indicate who that person is.

But what would happen, if we stripped away the stigmas of gender, and began to look at the heroes who make a difference in our community as a whole.

In Haliburton County, there are an impressive number of women in leadership positions with the local fire departments; a professional industry that is largely dominated by men.

Across Canada, roughly 11 per cent of firefighters identify as women. And while we are fairly lucky in Haliburton County with the number of women who are on each department, they are still outnumbered by men.

"It wasn't easy getting started," said Jenn McGovern, the first female captain of the Minden Fire Department, "it's definitely still a man's world.'

McGovern became a volunteer firefighter in 2019, after being told repeatedly by her partner at the time that she



Jenn McGovern of Minden recently became the first female captain at the department, and encourages other women to get involved in the trade as well. /Photo submitted

couldn't do it. "I am very dedicated to it, and very passionate about it," she said when she sat down with the *Echo*. After getting her foot in the door, McGovern attended recruit school to further her knowledge and skillset, and after being on the department for two years, was promoted to captain.

"We always work as a team for everything," noted McGovern, "and yes, maybe there are some things that I may not be able to do the same way as some of the men do them, but there are some things where I have more strength than

With a background in the mental health field, McGovern noted that she carries a level of empathy that comes from her own experiences and knowledge, and is proud to be able to bring that to her team.

Logging over 500 volunteer hours a year dedicated to the department, McGovern said she has no intentions of stepping back, and is incredibly proud of her team and the people who helped her get to where she is now.

She hopes that other women enter the field of firefighting to start to change the stigma, and so young girls can have people in the industry to look up to. "If you put your mind to it, you can do it," she said, "and us women living up here are proof of that."

In Highlands East, Angie Grant and Sandra Dabrowski have been on the department since 2019. "What sparked the interest for me was seeing firefighters in action," said Grant, who shared a memory from when she was a manager at Bark Lake, during a time where emergency personnel were required for a backwoods incident. She remembered that watching them work was incredible. "You can see how impactful they are," she said, 'watching heroes coming to the rescue."

The couple shared that they made the decision together to start volunteering with Station Three out of Gooderham, and they have never looked back. They started weekly training before attending recruit school, and dedicated themselves to learning everything they could about

"Across the board, it's definitely still a male dominated field," said Dabrowski, "but we're lucky in our hall, because I'd say our team is close to 50/50." "And our team is super supportive of all of us," echoed Grant, "our chief is very into equality in every way."

see FIREFIGHTING page 5





Firefighting: the 'greatest job in the world'

from page 4

Grant and Dabrowski noted that the capacity of calls changes on a regular basis. Sometimes they will get one to two calls a week, and other times, it can be multiple calls in a single day, with the summer months being the busiest.

"But it really is the greatest job in the world," said Grant. "There's a rumour that says it is the greatest job, and I can confirm, it is," she beamed. Dabrowksi said that becoming a firefighter allowed her to embrace bravery in all its forms. "I think if you want to show you can be brave, you want to be brave, this is such a good avenue to be that brave version of yourself."

After each interview with these women, each one suggested one more person to connect with. A person they admired, who taught them, trained them, and represented women in the field in ways they described as "upstanding" and "inspira-

tional". That person, is Stacey Parish.
Parish was named the deputy fire chief for Dysart et al in January, 2023, and the full time training officer in March of the same year. That comes after she was captain for seven years, and a member of the department for 20. She is the first woman to ever be named deputy in the county.

"I've always tried to be inclusive," said Parish, "that's how I have always led. A firefighter is a firefighter, and we are all a team."

Parish credits her team with always supporting her, and notes how they are her second family, in every sense of the



"I've always tried to be inclusive, that's how I have always led. A firefighter is a firefighter, and we are all a team."

Stacey Parish, deputy chief

word. "We are a very tight knit community," she said, referencing not only fellow women in the industry, but the

county firefighters as a whole.

Parish noted that growing up, she did not have an interest in firefighting, "It was never presented to me as a job a female could do," she said. "But my advice is that if you have any inclination to do it, just do it. The women who get into it are just as strong as men. And I am very proud of all of them, and the entire fire department community here.'

So perhaps it's time to forget about the stigmas of gender - the clothing, the biases, the expectations - and begin to look at the real people who make a difference in our community as a whole. Because we have no shortage of heroes in Haliburton County.

> Angie Grant and Sandra Dabrowski of Highlands East have been firefighters since 2019, and commend their station for having a fairly even split between men and women on the team. /photo submitted







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points of view



www.haliburtonecho.ca 146 Highland Street, P.O. Box 360, Haliburton, ON, KOM 1SO • 705-457-1037 • Fax 705-457-3275 Published by White Pine Media Corp

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir









Trigger warning: This editorial contains discussion about dieting.

iet culture can of course be detrimental to those that follow it, but the circle of harm is expanding.

I recently had an alarming conversation with an older gentleman I know.

A few days ago, he went to a local pharmacy to refill a prescription for his wife who is diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

"Sorry, we're looking at a fourmonth-long wait for that drug," the pharmacist said to him. "There's a global shortage."

The drug in question:

It's prescribed to individuals with type 2 diabetes to manage their blood sugar levels and can reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes for those who also have a heart disease.

If you look up Ozempic on TikTok, though, you won't likely find the word "diabetes" in any of the results.

You will definitely find a profusion of people taking it to lose weight quickly.

Although it's not approved by Health Canada or the FDA in the US for weight loss, it is an appetite sup-

It keeps your body from digesting food quickly while also mimicking the hormone that makes us feel full.

And Hollywood stars have gotten their hands on it.

Which means a slew of followers are trying it out, too, through off-label prescribing

Off-label prescribing is the unapproved use of approved drugs.

Once a drug is approved by the Health Canada or the FDA, healthcare providers have the green light to pre scribe it in a way that is "medically appropriate" for the patient.

Even for unapproved uses: Ozempic for weight loss.

The Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) said 11 per cent of all prescriptions in Canada are off-label.

A Harvard University article on the debacle said 38 per cent US prescriptions are given for unintended uses.

It does mean that health care workers have fairly free reign over what the prescribe and who they prescribe

Ozempic are made by doctors, pro-

weight loss, encouraging its use, showing "success stories".

rities that are believed to be injecting themselves once a week with

doing in the long run?

with diabetes around the world using it to help control blood

pharmacies say distance doesn't mat-

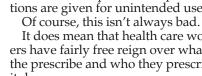
those with diabetes will likely see a spike in blood sugar.

When Ozempic use is stopped,

And for those using it for weight loss?

That's a novel in itself. Weight is usually gained back quickly.

It doesn't treat the root of the problem for those using it to fit an ideal - to look like their favourite celebrity.



Some of those TikTok videos about

moting the drug for

Some list all the celeb-

But what's it really

What about those

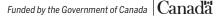
We're 4,000 kilometres from California.

The empty shelves at all our local ter when the internet's involved.

It must be injected once a week to

maintain its effectiveness.

It's a sad day when a toxic global internet fad affects our little town and the people in it, and is likely just the tip of a big iceberg.



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A chilly sunset over Haliburton Lake.

by Vivian Collings

When life gets tricky

Down

sharon

lynch

H NO, here we go again! Steve's lip curled in contempt. The boxes had started to come out from the attic, the furniture was moved around, and he knew his life was about to be turned upside down and inside out. Not to overstate it, but Steve knew what was coming.

Trudy, on the other hand, had no clue. She just continued on her silly, I-loveeveryone-and-all-is-good outlook. She sniffed the boxes with curiosity and walked around the re-arranged furniture as though expecting something exciting

was about to happen. Wrong, thought Steve. What was about to happen was Christmas – or at least preparations for that dreadful holiday season. Steve knew because he had lived through ten Christmases and they were all the same. Decorations blocking his way on the fireplace mantel, hanging lights on win-dow ledges, people com-ing and going, bringing drafts through the door

and noise, lots of noise. All the activity interrupted his sleep and it was a struggle

to enjoy a quiet daytime nap at this time

Trudy on the other hand, appeared to be loving it. She made such a fuss over all the comers and goers at the front door. If given the opportunity, she liked to sneak a Christmas cookie off the coffee table. Failing that, she always managed to find an old Christmas stocking to chew on. But then, what can you expect from a youngster with no experi-

Wait until they tie a red bow on your collar, thought Steve, chuckling to himself. Maybe that will change your mind. They tried that with Steve one year, but when he drew blood, they knew not to try it again. After all, he had his dignity to consider.

Trudy did not understand why Steve was such a grump these days. He was almost as bad as the humans. They were short-tempered with each other and even with her. That was unusual. Usually they spent a lot of time stroking her

head, gazing into her eyes and telling her what a good girl she was. But these days, they had little time for her. Rushing in and out the door carrying big bags, they almost tripped over her when she greeted them. The last time that happened she retreated to under the kitchen table and it was not in hope of finding a

But there were compensations. When the family realized she was waiting patiently, they remembered to slip her a piece of something tasty, something different from her usual fare. Food was

always a good thing for Trudy and made up for a lot of inconsistency on their part.

She wanted to ask Steve if this was how life would be going forward. More people, more congestion in the living room, but with special treats and surprises. Like when all the children arrived for a visit. Now that was fun!

They made a big fuss over her, though she had to watch they did not step on her feet. And it was easy to just ever-so-carefully reach up and take something

edible from their small, dangling hands. The grownups yelled when she did that but by then, well the deed was done.

Unfortunately Steve was not very communicative. He was so grumpy, sitting in a corner of his favourite chair until a guest made him move. Then he would get all huffy, hiss at them as he waved his tail back and forth before eventually hopping down and into the other room. Steve held a grudge and he made a point of ignoring everyone for the rest of the evening.

So how was Trudy to know the best way to approach Steve?. Maybe a little flattery. This was her first Christmas and she needed some guidance on what to expect. She could tell him how she had always admired his independence and no-nonsense approach to the humans. Maybe that would loosen him up enough to share some seasonal insights. And like – how long would all this last?

points of view

Breakthroughs

RARELY GET excited about scientific breakthroughs. But the other day I read about one that has definitely made me thankful to live at this moment in time.

The headline in the scientific journal annnounced, This sea worm's butt swims away, and now scientists know

I know this might not mean much to you, but as soon as I saw it, I understood that this was a great day for humour writing. Oh, and science too.

A summary of the scientific paper, confirmed this. Here's what it said – more or less.

There is a type of Japanese sea worm that has a detachable butt that contains its eggs or sperm. That's right. A detachable butt.

Oh, and its called a stolon.

Regardless, the stolon begins to grow a head with a brain, eyes, and antennae when the sea worm becomes sexually mature – which, if I'm not mistaken is when you

steve galea stop using baseball analogies to describe intimacy. Ther stolon then develops swimming bristles, and when the time is right, it leaves the main body and goes out into the world to find a stolon of the opposite sex in order to score a home run with.

My immediate thought was to wonder why this was never taught to us in grade school sex ed class. But, after considerable thought, I realized that this would have only confused me further.

Still, as a humour writer, I cannot help but be fasci-

First of all, this sea worm's butt has a brain. And because of this, I don't think I will ever think of the term "smart ass" in the same way again.

More than that, this makes me wonder who the advanced life form really is?

This lowly sea worm has figured out a way to avoid all the embarrassing things other creatures do to mate. It does not do weird mating displays or dances, nor does it thump its chest, wear gaudy colours, issue strange, highpitched mating calls, or dispel musky odours to attract a mate. Heck, it doesn't even do the things non-humans

Instead, when the time is right, it just jettisons its butt out into the world and is done with it.

When you think about it, this is brilliant. That sea worm never has to feel the heartbreak of rejection. It doesn't have to go on multiple on-line dating sites or blind dates. It never has to go through that awkward part in a relationship when you feel it necessary to divulge that you consider yodeling the finest form of foreplay. It doesn't even have to meet the parents.

No, that sea worm just moves on with its life – and leaves the complicated part to its wandering rear end.

But, again, it's the brain part that gets me. For a brief time, that sea worm had two brains that presumably acted as one. And then its butt somehow thought, "If I had half a brain, I'd leave."

Of course, science still has to delve into this deeper. But my job as a humour writer is to point out that there are still so many unanswered questions. For instance, which part of the worm is responsible for child support? Or, is the original sea worm no longer able to twerk? And, can it answer itself when it asks, "Does my butt look big in

When I get these answers, I'll be over the moon.

The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

Profit Sharing with employees a formula for business success

fter I opened my small tool and die shop, I came up with what turned out to be a sure-fire formula for growing my business: I made my top managers partners in profits, and I gave them a share of the ownership.

When my rapidly growing business eventually became Magna International Inc., I gave every employee the right to share in the profits and ownership of the company, and it became the driving force that placed Magna on a path of incredible growth in the decades that followed.

I'm a big believer that if employees have

a stake in the company's success, they'll be more motivated to produce a better product for a better price. So, it's always been puzzling to me that more companies don't share profits with their employees.

There are two basic types of management styles that most companies adopt. The first one is something I describe as the boss/worker model, where the senior managers are bosses who dictate how the company operates, and the workers are paid to carry out the tasks necessary to keep the company running

Under this model, workers are often unhappy and more likely to reach out to unions in order to get better pay and working conditions. In this scenario, workers end up becoming more like adversaries than

The other management model is the one I embraced. It's a model where senior management and employees work together as partners to make the business successful. Under this model, employees are also partners in profitability – they get a cut of the profits they help produce, and as a result, they care more, work harder, and constantly think about ways to improve productivity

After I gave employees at my company the right to share in the profits and ownership, our profitability and growth surged. I saw firsthand the dramatic impact that profit sharing can have on the growth and

It's a major reason why I made sharing profits with workers one of the seven key principles in a proposed new Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for

As part of this particular economic right, I've been advocating that profit sharing should be required for all large companies with more than 300 employees.

But following discussions with a number of business leaders and CEOs of large corporations, I've come around to the view that it would be better if this requirement only

> applied to small businesses that grow in size to more than 300 employees.

> By requiring profit sharing for only those small businesses that grow in size to 300 employees or more, it can be phased in at a much earlier stage of the company's growth and development and would slowly evolve over time. It would also be more likely to take root and become part of the company's DNA.

Establishing this principle will create a new profit-sharing culture in Canada that will enhance our country's com-

petitiveness and improve productivity. We will gradually transition from a business culture of bosses and workers to a culture where employees are partners in profitability and share in the success of the business.

Profit sharing worked spectacularly for my company. It can do the same for yours.

Email me at <u>info@economiccharter.ca</u> if you'd like to learn more about how this powerful economic principle could transform your business. To learn more about the proposed economic charter, please visit: <u>www.economiccharter.ca</u>.

Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

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frank stronach

letters to the editor

Re: Haliburton/Toronto bus route termination

To the Editor,

This seemed inevitable since the cut down of service during the COVID-19 pandemic. It would be best if some kind of government subsidy was available to continue this service.

The editorial stated that the bus started running to Haliburton after train passenger service was discontinued in the late 1970s. However, I remember my mother taking the bus from Haliburton to Toronto in the 1950s, and I took it regularly after starting college in Toronto in 1972.

The bus will be missed by me and other regular

users, particularly seniors. I have many memories of trips on this bus from my college years, working time in Toronto and during retirement in Wilberforce. There needs to be an alternative for those who don't wish to drive to Toronto or who do not drive or own cars. If travelers can get to Peterborough, there is a GO service to Toronto, and it is half price for seniors.

> **Barb Schofield** Wilberforce



pic of the past

This week's Pic of the Past is of two young women outfitted in long woollen winter coats, sporting fleece mittens and collars suitable for a blustery winter day. Bess Dart and Clara Gorrie were fast friends and part of a regular crowd who made their own fun. Their snowshoes, peeking out from under their long coats, attest to their familiarity with outdoor activity and recreation. This photo is from Haliburton: *A History in Pictures*, published by the Haliburton Highlands Museum.



letters to the editor

Potential solutions to lack of public transportation

To the Editor,

Rural living certainly has its advantages, especially being away from the congestion of urban areas and closer to the clean air and waters of Haliburton County.

However, it also has its costs, namely the greater distances to travel for such everyday things as school, groceries, shopping, medi-

cal services, social activities and a Tim Hortons coffee.

While owning a car is a requirement, not a luxury, so should access to affordable and reliable long distance bus services for those

who depend on it.

Millions of provincial and federal taxpayer funds are spent annually on urban public transit projects and operations, many of which are poorly managed (i.e. the recent Ottawa city transit boondoggle) based on the enormous cost overruns and missed completion target dates.

Ontario Northland operates rural bus routes to and from many locations, and I don't see why, with appropriate provincial and federal support, they could not be provided with a solid business case to add Hali-burton and the "Highway 35" route to their portfolio to fill the void losing TOK will create. Or better still, provide funding to TOK!

The City of Edmonton recently spent \$600 million – including federal funding - on 60 new electric buses of which three-quarters are now in the garage with poor immediate prospects for parts to fix them because the U.S. manufacturer is filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Governments are pouring billions of our dollars into questionable "green" projects every day (i.e. Trudeau's billion dollar "Green Slush Fund") without proper business cases, due diligence or oversight.

Surely some of that money would be much better spent supporting rural residents' long distance transportation needs?

It's too bad electric buses don't have the range to reach Toronto because our greenobsessed governments would gladly send buckets of money our way if they did.

> **Dave Love Haliburton Lake**

Christmas in November, don'tcha know

Maybelle's

'HY, IF it isn't Christmas in November, right here in Lake WhaddayathinkImean, don'tcha know.

Mel Amory's big beautiful Christmas tree was just put up by our Lake W volunteer firefighters right in the village beside Twindle Mumbly's Taxidermy & Habidashery store. And on

Friday night, the whole town is going to show up when the lights are plugged in and we all sing "Santa's coming to town," and other fun Christmassy songs. And Margie Billing-smithers is going to serve up her to-live-for homemade hot chocolate with cashew cream and cinnamon topping for the kiddies...and the big kiddies, too, (like ol' Maybelle) who always begs: "Me, too, me, please, me, me."

Guess we're all pretty much toddlers

And then, like every year, the Santa Claus parade will come right down our main street with floats and goats ... yep, goats ... and human candy canes. You should see Vilma Yuccch striped from top to bottom. She came over to show me what we were all in for. It was Vilma who made the costumes herself and a whole gaggle of folks are going to wear them. EVEN her sweetheart, Officer Stanley Penelope McBottom. Oh, he protested at first. "I'll look silly," he said. "I can't wear that, what will the fellas think?" But it was Vilma's big blue eyes that he always falls into that turned his head in a nano-second. "Yes, Vilma. Yesssssssssssssssssss."

Funny how we saw Halloween pop up in September. And Easter show up a whole month early, too. Well, I guess we can all use the merriment and goodwill that these special occasions

Why, ol' Maybelle has Christmas lights going all year long at my cottage, don'tcha know.

Just makes me feel good to see my front window surrounded with lit-tle twinkly bits. I figure, why wait 'til December? Life's too short and it's the little things that can put a big smile in your

Those twinkly lights are my daily reminder to be as much like them as possible, don'tcha know.

A clue, a cue, to choose the light when it's dark out. To feel the light when you feel a little blue inside. And to choose

kindness and caring for our neighbours and friends over thoughts and feelings of ill-will that separate us. To be our own Santa at every opportunity in every way. Giving a smile is a gift and can warm a person, sometimes, even more than a big woolly coat. (But if you have one that you don't need, that's a wonderful gift for somebody,

What ol' Maybelle is saying is this: We don't have to wait 'til Christmas to open our hearts to others. Christmas is a state of heart, don'tcha know. And right now, it's alive and well right here in November!

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You," 21 of Maybelle's best short stories is now available at www.amazon.com.

Willow Organic; in the name of wellness

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Ladies' Shopping Night on Dec. 7 will see a new business downtown. Wind in the Willows is offering the next level of spa experiences at Willow Organic, located right next door.

The space is being designed by ACM Designs and will feature laser services, IV vitamins, facials, health-conscious products, and more.

Shannon Feir is a registered nurse and has been working at Wind in the Willows for 13 years. In partnership with Sylvia Holland, owner of Wind in the Willows, the two are taking over 158 Highland Street to offer high-end spa experiences. "Our vision for Willow Organic is for

it to be a place people can come to make some significant changes in the way you think and feel. We recognize that the world right now can be a hard place to live in," Feir said. "When you walk in, we want your shoulders to drop, for you to exhale and know that you're taken care

Holland has been in the business for 33 years.

"This is my passion, this is my baby, and she's grown up pretty well," she laughed. "As soon as the space became available beside us, I thought we could make this a sister company."

Feir said after the COVID-19 pandemic, many people haven't had the chance to regulate their nervous system.

Everybody is stuck in the fight or flight response where their ability to make decisions well and sleep is disrupted,"



Shannon Feir, left, and Sylvia Holland are hosting the grand opening of Willow Organic, a luxury sister spa to Wind in the Willows, on Ladies' Shopping Night in Haliburton on Thursday, Dec. 7. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

she said. "We're here to help you pump the brakes, regulate your nervous system, and feel more aligned."

Holland and Feir knew it would be the perfect time to help individuals focus on

"We've noticed about 80 per cent of our clients that come in are in a space where they might not feel very seen and heard, and they just need nurturing. So that will be our focus for our services," Feir said.

At Willow Organic, there will be no add on services. Extras will be included in each one-hour session.

"It'll be a very tailored experience. If someone comes in for a facial and might also need a shoulder massage, we will do that as well. It's meeting everyone where they're at," Holland said.

Wind in the Willows will continue to offer their regular services.

Feir and Holland's vision is to have Willow Organic be a destination spot.

"We will be the only local place to offer services like this," Holland said. "Each Willow Organic service is much deeper than just a treatment. It goes into those deep layers that hold us back from being

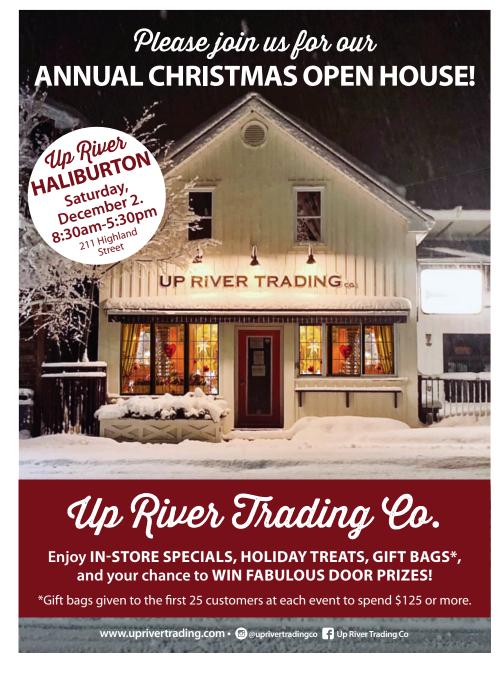
who we really want to be."

Willow Organics is offering year-long memberships for their services.

'We understand it's a hard time financially for some people right now, so we've added membership options to hopefully keep things more affordable," Feir said.

For more information on Willow Organic, visit www.willoworganic.ca.

Wind in the Willows services can be found here: www.haliburton-spa.com.





Crossword brought to you by

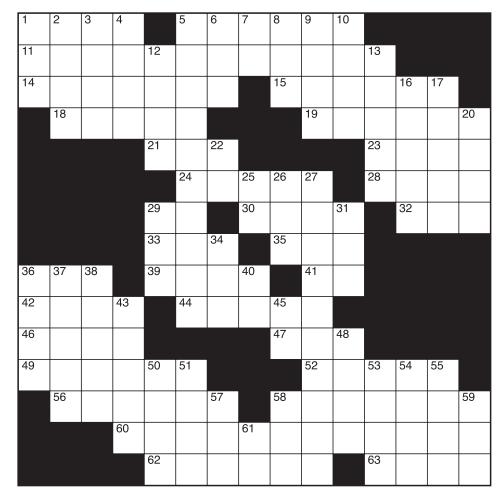
Ken Barry 705-754-5280 ken@kenbarry.com Jacquie Barry Realtor® 705-457-0652 jacquie@kenbarry.com

"Out Standing In Our Field"



RF/MAX PROFESSI^ONALS





CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Old English letters
- 5. Sculpture
- 11. Showing up again
- 14. Tie the knot again
- 15. Washington city
- 18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
- 19. Mark over a vowel
- 21. Explosive
- 23. Popular race: __ 500
- 24. Pile up
- 28. Mint
- 29. Commercial
- 30. A minute amount (Scottish)
- 32. Small Eurasian deer
- 33. Baseball stat
- 35. Numbers cruncher
- 36. Japanese masked drama
- 39. Gastever and de Armas are two
- 41. Blood group
- 42. Assist in wrongdoing
- 44. Language spoken in Cameroon and
- 46. Grayish-white
- 47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 49. Microorganism
- 52. Place under prohibition
- 56. Calm, dependable
- 58. Congressman
- 60. Force
- 62. As a result of this document
- 63. One of two main branches of Islam

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make a mistake
- 2. Gordon and Snider are two
- 3. Geographical region of Finland
- 4. Ejected saliva

- 5. A way of performing
- 6. Scotland's longest river
- 7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
- 8. Body art
- 9. Two-toed sloth
- 10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
- 12. Foolish person (Brit.)
- 13. Of the wind
- 16. Grand home
- 17. Sound
- 20. English river
- 22. Symbol indicating ownership
- 25. Exclamation of surprise
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Apart from
- 29. Satisfaction
- 31. The bill in a restaurant
- 34. Sea bream
- 36. Port in southern Japan
- 37. Double-reed instruments
- 38. Center
- 40. South Dakota
- 43. An orderly crowd
- 45. Indicates position
- 48. __-pedi
- 50. Nonsense (slang)
- 51. Republic of Ireland
- 53. Nocturnal flyers
- 54. American state
- 55. Clusters in fern fronds
- 57. Patriotic women
- 58. A person's brother or sister
- 59. Breed of sheep
- 61. Popular film "Despicable __"

Answers on page 11



Night Market is returning to Abbey Gardens on Dec. 2, 2023. This year, they have added a custom bar for holiday cocktails to pair with the caroling, shopping, and scenery. /EMILY STONEHOUSE

Adding the sparkle to the season with Abbey Gardens

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

It's back and better than ever. Abbey Gardens' (AG) annual Night Market is slated for Saturday, Dec. 2, and this year, they're adding even more to the packed event. "Our community does a great job of having events, especially during the holidays, for kids and families, and we didn't want to create something that wasn't needed," said director of operations for AG, Ashley McAllister. "The Night Market idea tends to be more for adults, where people can come for date nights or with friends or to do some holiday shopping without the kids, and enjoy a cocktail."

McAllister shared that the idea for the Night Market hit during COVID, when she realized that community members who regularly visited the big Christmas markets in the city were no longer comfortable making the trip.

So in 2021, McAllister and her team at AG realized they could bring that experience to Haliburton County. "We already have a lot of great relationships with local vendors because of the Food Hub, so we decided to try and bring a little of the holiday magic home," said McAllister. "The response was incredible, and we had hundreds of people attend our first market - way more than we ever imagined."

That first trial year, they had over 500 attendees, and last year they had well over 750. "So I think it's steadily grow-

ing," chuckled McAllister.
This year, the AG team has added another new feature: the Holiday Spirits Bar, which is set up in the recently renovated bar trailer onsite, and will feature a series of winter cocktails made specially for the event.

McAllister noted that the first couple hours of the evening tend to be very busy, with the crowds dying down as the night progresses. All vendors will be set up in the marquee tent, which will be heated, but it is still recommended to dress for the conditions, since the majority of experiences will be held outdoors.

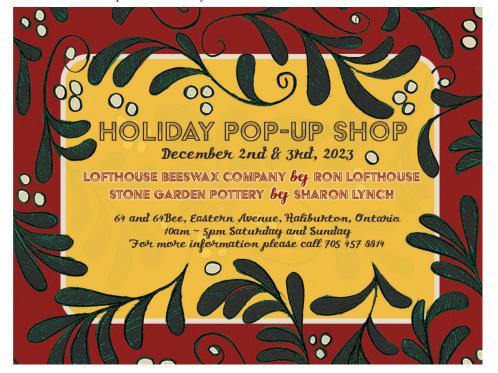
On top of the new outdoor bar, AG will be offering festive hot drinks from the Food Hub, as well as a farm fresh tree stand, fire pits, and food tent with mac and cheese, roasted potato poutine, and wood fired pizza from Into The Blue. There will also be a photo booth set up with a souvenir print out, and some other

fun surprises along the way.

And the best part? Donations from the evening all go right back into Haliburton County. "Not everyone knows that Abbey Gardens is a registered charity, so all the proceeds go right back toward creating more community events, restoration projects, and children's programs," said McAllister. "This year's fundraiser is raising money for our toddler program Lil' Buds, where parents and tots explore the natural world through themed stories, walks, activities, hands-on discovery, and crafts in the garden."

McAllister noted that they want to make the event accessible to everyone, so admission is entirely by donation, though she would appreciate it if folks can RSVP in advance, so they can prepare the appropriate amount of food and

For more information and to register, visit www.abbeygardens.ca.





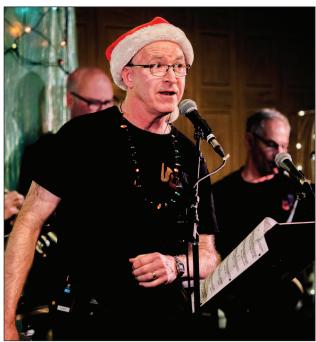
Exploring new horizons

The Highlands Chamber Orchestra presented Horizons: A Journey in Sound for an evening of captivating music from Star Trek, Sleeping Beauty, the Joker, and more at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Saturday, Nov. 25. Conducted by Dan Manley, the orchestra of over 40 people played for a full theatre of listeners to show of their hard work from the past year. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Holiday cheer

The 10th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig took place Friday at the Haliburton Legion, in support of the Fuel for Warmth campaign. Highlanders flocked to the Legion where they were treated to music, dancing, raffles and holiday cheers, all in support of the Fuel for Warmth charity. The Adverse Conditions provided the soundtrack for the evening, keeping people moving on the dance floor and those at home watching the live streamed event. Hosts Maple Syrup (Victoria Bingham) and Patsy Pine (Amy Brohm) kept the crowd entertained throughout the evening, ane and Dave Daltone pose for a photo at the Highlands Christmas Shindig while dropping a raffle ticket into a prize box. ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo



The Adverse Conditions provided the soundtrack at the 10th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig in Haliburton on Friday.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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Auditions for Highlands Little Theatre's Spring 2024 Show!

Agatha Christie's A Murder is Announced Directed by Jack Brezina

Thursday, November 30th at 7pm and Sunday, December 3rd at 2pm

Haliburton Highlands Museum

Performances: April 3rd – 6th at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion

(Rehearsals will begin in January)

Wide range of roles available - no previous theatre experience required!

For more information or to book your spot, email: highlandstheatrelive@gmail.com



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Highlands Wind Symphony

2023 Christmas Concert

Saturday Dec. 2 at 2:00 pm

Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton Adults \$15 / Family \$30



Highlands Wind Symphony Highlands Swing Band with vocalist Jerelyn Craden

Tickets at Masters Bookstore in Haliburton, or Minden Pharmasave Call or text (705) 457-0455 for more info

Huskies down Rangers and Tigers

ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Echo

The Haliburton County Huskies completed their past two weeks split with two wins and two losses. The Huskies had a tough schedule planned with an away game against defending champions Collingwood on the docket, the team was in for a tough two weeks. However, their two home games were a much different

Wrangling the Rangers

The first team to visit the SG Nesbitt Arena were the last place North York Rangers. Struggling in the season, only amassing three wins so far, the Rangers were desperate to get some goals and pull off the upset.

Ten minutes into the first period and the Huskies got the scoring going, as Captain Patrick Saini lit the lamp to score his team leading 16th of the year. In the second period Nick Lamont added the only Huskies goal of the period, tipping in a Lucas Vacca point shot for nineth of the campaign.

A major talking point of the second however, was the first fighting major assessed at the Nesbitt in nearly two years. After Gavin McGahey-Smith made a hard check on a North York player, former Huskie Josh Rumolo jumped into action to defend his teammate. Unfortunately for him, McGahey-Smith was no slouch in the tilly and managed to take down Rumolo in a dominant scrap.

In the third period, Noah Lodoen added his first goal in the OJHL burying a



The Huskies celebrate a goal during their Pink in the Rink game against the Aurora Tigers on Saturday, Nov. 25 at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

feed from Saini to increase the lead to 3-0. The Rangers answered back with a powerplay goal of their own, perhaps a little

Lodoen added his second of the game at 14:51 by knocking in an Aiden Yarde rebound. Finally, Isaac Larmand scored his first career goal as a Huskie to conclude the 5-1 victory for the Huskies against the very crappy Rangers squad.

Taming the Tigers

The Huskies have struggled with the

Tigers all season long, but on the second and final Pink in the Rink night, the Huskies got the last laugh.

Patrick Saini waited until crunch time to get his first goal of the game, where at 19:03 he buried a screamer past Karkoulas to give the Huskies a 1-0 advantage. 37 seconds later, Nick Lamont doubled the lead with his 10th of the season.

Adam Smeeton got his long awaited first goal as a Husky at 1:25 of the second period, with the assist coming from a freshly healed up Raine Nadeau. Lucas

Vacca made it 4-0, before Aurora got on the board with a powerplay goal of their

Haliburton County wasn't done scoring yet however. Lucas Stevenson picked up his fifth of the year, while Saini added his 18th of the year short-handed.

The Captain Saini completed his hat trick in the third period, scoring on the powerplay at 2:59. When the clock expired, the Huskies found themselves with a 7-1 win against the visiting Tigers.

Brett Fullerton made 18 saves on 19 shots, to move himself to 5-4-0-0 on the

On the road again

The Huskies travelled to Collingwood and Lindsay for their two road games.

In Collingwood, the Huskies were shut out for the first time this season after running into a red hot Noah Pak. Pak stopped all 19 shots in a 4-0 Blues victory at the Eddie Bush Memorial Arena.

The Lindsay game however was a dif-

After jumping out to a 4-0 lead over the Huskies, Lindsay found themselves in the cat bird seat. The Huskies attempted to comeback, as Ty Petrou and Jack Staniland added goals to cut the lead in half.

Charlie Fink put the Huskies within one, but it was too little too late. The Muskies won the battle of Highway 35 by a score of 4-3.

The Huskies are back on the road Monday against the Cobourg Cougars and Thursday against the Brantford 99ers. They head to Wellington for a tilt with the Dukes on Friday, before returning home on Sunday to face the Stouffville Spirit.



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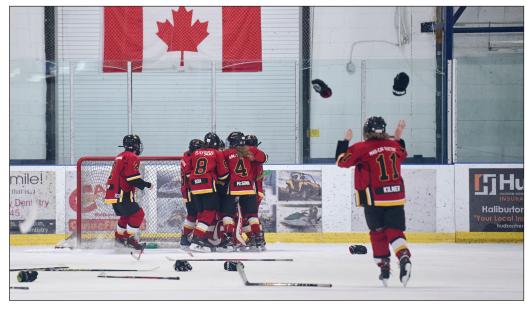


Strong fight by Storm

The Silver Stick Hockey Tournmanent was held this past weekend in Haliburton, with teams coming from around the region to play. The finals saw a faceoff between the Apsley Flames and the Brock Wild, with the Flames winning 5-4. /TIM YANO Special to





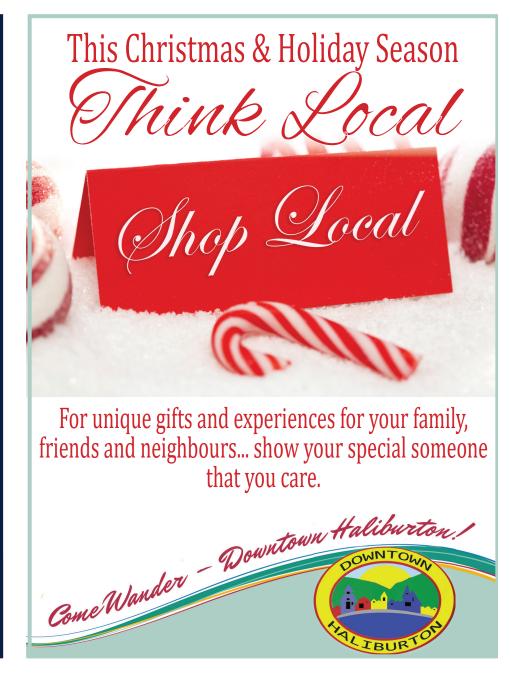


Unfortunately the local Highland Storm team did not make it to the finals, losing in the semi-finals, but the tournament was won by the Apsley Flames.



Fans in the stands posed for a picture, some from Highland Storm.





Fifteen years of Midwifery Services in Haliburton County

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

For the past 15 years, Midwifery Services of Haliburton-Bancroft (MSHB) have been providing services to families from their building on Victoria Street in

They'll soon have a new home in the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team building on County Road 1.

"Our goal now is to be really integra-

tive with the community," said registered midwife Annalee Winter. "We love our cozy little home, but this will be a familiar place to lots of people and it's a central and accessible location."

MSHB was founded in 2008 by Rebecca Weeks "in response to the lack of obstetrical services in our area," Weeks said in a statement on the MSHB website.

Winter graduated from the midwifery undergraduate program at McMaster University in 2014, something she took in search for a job with plenty of variety and a way to help people through one of the most significant events of their lives.

Winter and her family moved to Haliburton County in 2016, and knew how important these services are to a small

"I was drawn to the diversity in the work and the potential to really get to know families and help people as they're entering parenthood," she said. "It's such a special time to be able to provide information to people 24/7 whenever they need it. Even if we don't have the answer, we can help them get it, and that's really important in a rural area."

She explained that being present while someone experiences bringing life into the world is nearly indescribable.

"The most rewarding part for me is watching people after birth, after they realize they've birthed this beautiful baby into the world. Seeing their faces is truly the best," Winter said. "The memo-ries stay with you from birth. It's different for everybody of course, but even my grandmothers remember their births so clearly."

Rural challenges

Midwives in Ontario are autonomous primary care providers for pregnancy, birth, and postpartum.

A midwife cares for individuals throughout their entire pregnancy and birth, as well as six week postpartum if a pregnancy is considered low-risk.

"Throughout someone's pregnancy, we're always reviewing things, looking at the whole picture, and if something comes up that's looking to be outside the range of "normal", then we consult with a specialist like an OB to be able to provide them the safest care possible for the pregnant person and their baby," Winter said.

Most prenatal care is done at their

They perform home births or assist with hospital births depending on the cli-

"In Haliburton County, one of the most challenging things is that we don't have a hospital that does deliveries close to us. It's an hour and a half to the Peterborough Regional Hospital, and then there are others that do deliveries that are about the same distance," Winter said.

MSHB midwives have staff privileges

at the Peterborough Regional Hospital, so this is usually where their hospital births will take place.

A day in the life

For Winter, no two days are the same.

"Some days, you find me just in the clinic having appointments with clients. They could be at any stage in their pregnancy, so what happens in a day really depends on who I'm seeing," she explained.

Midwives carry out home visits for the first week of postpartum, and then have appointments for the remaining six weeks

She always remains on call.

"If someone is in labour or needs an urgent assessment, we sometimes have to rearrange our clinic so I can attend," Winter said. "Your phone is your pager, and you're always waiting to see what's going to happen.

On the days that she's not in the clinic, she will perform home visits, work on paperwork, and organize meetings.

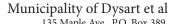
'It's hard in some ways for sure, in terms of committing to your own kids and family to organize plans, but it is never ever boring. It's exciting and stimulating and different all the time."

In Ontario, the four year midwifery undergraduate program can be taken at Toronto Metropolitan University or McMaster.

MSHB is currently looking for more midwives to join the team.

"The problem is that there are so many postings in Ontario and not enough peo-

Regularly a team of four, the clinic is now down to two midwives and an administrator with one midwife on maternity leave and one having left the county.



135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 Telephone: (705) 457-1740 Email: info@dysartetal.ca Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING **COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT**

· DATE:

Wednesday, December 13th, 2023

11:00 am.

· LOCATION:

The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom. The meeting will be recorded through the conferencing

application and live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

- 1. D13-MV-2023-028 Cameron and Folliott
- The following variance is requested to permit increased lot coverage on a lot located in the WR2 zone:
 - a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a maximum lot coverage of 19.9% as opposed to the permitted maximum of 15%.
- · Location: Part Lot 2 and 3, Concession 5, in the Geographic Township of Guilford, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
- 2. D13-MV-2023-029 LTA Real Estate (Hops) Inc.
 - The following variances are requested to permit a decreased front lot line setback for a commercial building and a decreased minimum number of loading spaces on a lot located in the C-13 zone:
 - a) A variance to Section 7.2 to permit a commercial building to have a minimum front lot line setback of 1 metre (3.2 feet), as opposed to the required minimum of 1.5
 - b) A variance to Section 3.14(a) to permit a commercial building between 281 square metres to 2300 square metres to have a minimum number of loading spaces of 1 as opposed to the required minimum number of loading spaces of 2.
 - Location: Part Lot 12, Concessions 8 and 9, Part 3 to 4, Plan 19R2039, Parts 3 and 4, Plan 19R4141, in the Geographic Township of Dysart, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

3. D13-MV-2023-033 Ross

- The following variances are requested to permit a decreased water setback for a seasonal dwelling and to permit an attached deck on a lot located in the WR4 and EP
 - a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a seasonal dwelling to have a minimum water setback of 12.7 metres (41.6 feet), as opposed to the required 20 metres (66 feet).
 - b) A variance to Section 3.7(a) to permit an attached deck to extend 9.3 metres (31.8 feet) into the minimum water setback as opposed to the permitted maximum of 3 metres (9.84 feet).
- · Location: Part Lot 27, Concession 3, Lot 40, Plan 492, Part 1, Plan 19R6470 in the Geographic Township of Guilford, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at iiles@dysartetal.ca

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

A COPY OF THE DECISION will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

> Jeff Iles Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment



Midwife Annalee Winter with mother Lily and baby Avery during their six week visit. /Photo

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20 Laying Hens for sale. \$3 per bird. We are downsizing and hens are still laying eggs. Located in the Lochlin area. Please call 705-457-7809

350 HEALTH SERVICES

RN with 35+ years experience available for in-home foot care, respite, and other caregiving services. Rates negotiable. Call or text Leslie at **705-391-8003**. Email at lesliesocha3@gmail.com.

380 COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

SELF CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent, discounts available located on Industrial Park Road in Haliburton. CALL 705-457-1224

540 COMING EVENTS

St. Pauls Anglican Church Childrens Christmas Gift Sale this Friday 4 to 7 pm and Saturday 10 am to 2 pm, 19 Invergordon Ave. Minden - Nothing costs more than \$1.00 Children come and shop for Christmas gifts for family and friends. We will help the children shop wrap and tag the gifts. For more nfo please call 705-286-2541



Tickets available at the Minden Animal Hospital, 4 Booth St. \$20 per Raffle Ticket. Cash only. Must be 19 Years of Age or Older

Raffle ticket to be drawn Friday December 15 @ 12 noon.





400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



We're looking to add 3 positions to our team!

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Large one-bedroom apartment available for rent in December 2023. Single, mature, non-smoking tenants preferred. Fully furnished with recent renovations. Includes water access, private entrance, and 400 sq foot screened porch. 10 minute drive from Haliburton. \$1400 per month. Includes hydro, heat, wifi, and parking. Please call **705-457-0861** or email michelinejohnson21@gmail. com. Pictures available upon request.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Description & Requirements: Languages-English, Education- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience. Experience 2 years to less than 3 years work setting. Urban area willing to relocate. Retail business. Responsibilities/ Tasks: Manage staff and assign duties. Determine merchandise and services to be sold. Locate, select and procure merchandise for resale. Develop and implement marketing strategies. Resolve problems that arise such as customer complaints and supply shortages. Plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate daily operations. Supervision 3-4 people. Experience and specialization in Computer and technology knowledge Point of sale system Inventory control software. Additional information: Security and safety Driver's validity licence Transportation/travel information: Own transportation, public transportation is not available. Work conditions and physical capabilities: Fast-paced environment Handling heavy loads Attention to detail. Combination of sitting standing walking. Standing for extended periods. Salary Range: \$38 to \$44. Email Resume to hamzaakhalidd@gmail.com

520 THANK YOU



Our friends in Dysart et al: Andrea Mueller, Rob Camelon, Dave Coulter, **Madeline Debnam**

Fire Dept. Volunteers. O.P.P. and E.M.S. Starters: Bill Frost, Brayden Frost, Bob Amos, Ken Savoy Traffic and Parking Controllers: Matt Oullette, Don Rowbotham, Irv Handler, Zolton Barabas, Brian Monaghan, Bob Park, Tim Nicholls, Jaylin Frost **Fowler Construction and Trina for pylons** Sunbelt Rentals for lighting, Our friends at Haliburton United Church

Many thanks to all of you who entered with your lights, music and WONDERFULLY DECORATED FLOATS, **ENTHUSIASTIC WALKERS AND DANCERS and our four** legged equine friends!

Those of the Santa Float: David & Betty Mills, Gerald Hadley, James Lawr, Marilyn Frost, Bill Frost, Bob Amos, Michelle Perrone, Loretta Maloney

REMEMBERING: Ken Noble, Jim Meadows and Sam Charlton Thanks To Barb and Vince Hammond for donating The Town Christmas Tree,

> And to the Dysart Fire Volunteers for felling and Erecting the tree.

and to Anthony and Juliane vanLieshout for the location and Hydro for the tree,

Gord and Kathryn Kidd for their tree celebrations CanoeFM and MooseFM Echo & Highlander for all your help Thanks to those donors for helping with the parade cost And Anyone we may have missed!



From Jim Frost Parade Coordinator, **Downtown Haliburton BIA, and Haliburton and District Lions Club**



Classifieds

Call 705-457-1037 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline Friday at 4 pm

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY





White Pine Media is seeking a

Full-time Maternity Leave Editor

for the Minden Times.

This position is responsible for managing and supporting the editorial team and freelancers on weekly publications, including weekly story meetings, planning for upcoming articles, and features, and editing content. The successful candidate will also be responsible for conducting interviews, covering events, taking photos, and writing local news stories, weekly local editorials, and features. You will be required to organize the weekly page plans to be submitted to the production team each week. Production duties will include layout, editing copy, photo editing, and corrections. You will also be required to assist in maintaining the paper's website on a regular basis.

This role is covering a maternity leave that begins in February 2024, with the opportunity to extend the contract based on interest and initiative.

Please forward your resume and samples of your published works including photos for consideration to Jennifer McEathron at jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com by Friday, December 7.

600 FUNERAL SERVICES



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Haliburton County Public Library Requires

CEO/County Librarian

The selected applicant will be responsible for the success of the library through implementation of the mission, vision, values and strategic priorities as identified by the Library Board; developing, resourcing, and evaluating operational plans; managing and leading library staff, and representing the library in the broader community. Minimum qualifications; Master of Library and Information Studies from and ALA accredited institution. Five years' related experience in a library environment, including a minimum of three years of supervisory experience.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to lbacikzanetti@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than 4:30pm on December 08, 2023.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

650 OBITUARIES



Mogens Hansen

It is with profound sadness that our family announces the passing of our patriarch, Mogens Solvang Hansen, at age 92, on Thursday, November 16.

Mogens was born to his mother, Edidt, on September 7, 1931 in Odense, Denmark. He is predeceased by his mother, and his father, Lars, as well as his siblings, Ib and Jytte.

Mogens is lovingly remembered by his devoted wife of 68 years, Inge (nee Pedersen) and idolized by his four children,

Yvonne (Glen), Kent (Virginia), Connie (Kelly) and Susanne (Jasper & AJ). He was a proud Morfar to his 3 grandchildren, Janet (Trevor), Steven and Hayley (Tanner) and his 2 great grandchildren, Arlow and Veronica. His love of animals was shared with his beloved Elsa and the wide variety of wildlife that frequent the Farmhouse.

Known to some as the 'Pistol Packing Plumber', Mogens was a source of inspiration to his family and countless others who knew him. His innumerable life accomplishments epitomize the courage, determination and strength that's been forever imparted upon those who cherish his memory.

Services for the public will not be held, but letters of condolence may be sent to Inge Hansen at PO Box 58, West Guilford, ON K0M 2S0. In lieu of flowers or gifts, please consider making a donation to Woodland Wildlife Sanctuary in Minden. The family also extends their gratitude to Haliburton Highlands Health Services and Andy's House in Port Carling, each for their outstanding care and support.

For evigt min helt - hvil i fred du arbejde på jorden er færdig.



THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

AND MINDEN RECORDER

Vol. 99

No. 18

Wednesday, December 17, 1980

"The voice of the Highlands"

40 pages

25 cents

Board will reduce its teaching staff by total of five

Declining enrolment throughout the county school system, coupled with a board decision to reduce the number of grades at the Dorset school, will mean five fewer teaching jobs in Haliburton

County next year.
At a meeting last Tuesday, the Haliburton County Board of Education supported recommendations from its special projects committee that will see the Dorset school reduced by four grades, a move that will mean the loss

of two teaching jobs. The committee also recommend-ed a reduction of one teacher at Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School, one at Archie Stouffer public

Cummins gets council seat left by Elliott

In a long, drawn-out pro-cess, Larry Cummins has finally made it to council. This week, Cummins was appointed to Anson, Hindon and Minden council to fill a vacancy created when coun-cilior-elect Dean Elliott was forced to resign because of a possible conflict of interest with his justice of the peace duties.

appoint Cummins to the sistion.

"It certainly was a long coess; well I'm kind of glar e way things turned out," immins said in a telephone terview Monday.

Cummins said in a telephone terview Monday.

Cummins said he felt counhad made the right move selecting the next closest indidate at the polls since it so colose to election time. "It shows they're thinking the people, not themslyes," Cummins said. In the next two years, immins said he would do best to help run the incipality for the people did work for the betterment he community.

Although Cummins said he not have any specific piects he would like to see underway immediately, will be spending his first runths on council learning Cont'd, page 3

school in Minden, and one at Haliburton Highlands Secon-dary School for a total reduc-tion of five teaching posi-

The move does not mean that five teachers will be fired, however. Voluntary retirements and resignations will make up some, if not all of the five positions that will be lost.

lost.

The cutbacks in teaching The cutbacks in teaching positions are part of an ongoing trend that is expected to continue over the next few years, until the number of students entering and leaving the school system reaches an approximate equilibrium. Declining enrolment is also likely to force further changes in the present school system in the present school system
as the board reduces the
number of grades in outlying
schools, or closes them completely.
For the moment, however,

the change at Dorset is the only one the board will impli-ment for the 1981-82 school

ment for the 1701-02 school year.

The special projects committee, in its report to the board, recommended no changes at Wilberforce or Victoria Street schools. Gooderham school will continue to operate in its present Kinderoperate in its present Kinder-garten to Grade 4 arrange-ment, at least until the end of the next school year, by which time the special projects committee will recommend whether the school should be



ment, at least until the end of the next school year, by which time the special projects committee will recommend whether the she should be closed or temain unchanged whether the shool should be closed or temain unchanged next year. Staffing in all county schools is considered by the count was scheduled, turnmins lost the council seat by four votes. However, bout the same time, Elliott was forced to resign and a cancy was created at the buncil table. Although countil was not legally bound to appoint the next closest candidate, it decided at its inautural meeting, last Tuesday, o appoint Cummins to the count to be considered by the committee on an annual basis. The owners later, when the recount was scheduled, turnmins lost the council seat by four votes. However, bout the same time, Elliott was forced to resign and a cancy was created at the buncil table. Although countil was not legally bound to appoint the next closest candidate, it decided at its inautural meeting, last Tuesday, o appoint Cummins to the toosition. The creating was a long of the countil seat of the countil was not legally bound to prove the proventile the special projects committee will recommend whether the schol should be seed to resign and a county school was countil to the the special projects committee will recommend whether the school of the proventile was not proved to the pr Fearrey is new county warden,

was attending that meeting as local businessmen were concerned with the policing of the village.

During his speech Fearrey said the OPP's concerns should be investigated so the "whole county can have what

In the year ahead, the county will be facing difficult economic times as high interest rates, declining lumber industry and construction effect the county, Fearrey told his councillors.

"1981 will prove to be a difficult year," he said.

He noted the county is facing another winter of high unemployment as well as having a "famous" low annual income.

New councillors assigned duties

Minden sets committee positions

Council representatives were appointed to many area committees at the inaugural meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden council last

Tuesday.

As part of the official ceremony, members of council were named to represent council on certain commit-

Newly-elected councillor Ed Pergolas was appointed to the Minden and District Horticultural Society. Also newly-elected reeve, Lloyd Walk-er, was named the Industrial development contact for 1981 and to the Ontario Home Renewal Program (OHRP). Serving with Walker on the OHRP committee will be

deputy-reeve Doug Chard, councillor Lyle Mc-Knight and municipal law enforcement officer, Dick Schell.

Walker and McKnight will also be acting as liaison with the Red Cross Society for the next year.

next year.
Enforcement officer Schell
Cont'd. page 3

Future will depend on enrolment

Dorset school not closed at least for 1981-82 term

Dorset parents have won a partial victory in their fight to keep the public school in that community open. At a meeting last Tuesday, the Haliburton County Board of Education approved recommendations from its special projects committee that will see the school reduced from a full nine grades to a Kindergarten to Grade 4 facility.

The decision means two of the school's four classrooms will be closed, and that two of its four teachers will no longer be needed. The teachers will be absorbed into the county public school system, but the net result will be two fewer teaching jobs.

them, but the net result will be two fewer teaching jobs. The decision may not have entirely pleased Dorset parents, but it did stave off the closing of the school for at least another year. Its long term future will now depend on the community's growth, or lack of it.

In recommending the change, the committee, in a report to the board, noted that the compromise would allow younger children to be educated in the community while at the same time providing students in Grade's and beyond a chance for a broader educational experience.

broader custainstience.

Those students will be educated in Mustoka, with the majority of them expected to go to Irwin Memorial School in Dwight, 11 miles from

go to Irwin Memorial School in Dwight, 11 miles from Dorset.

The committee also noted that keeping the school open would enable the board and the community to assess the growth or decline of the student population on a yearly basis to determine if the school should continue to function.

Dorset parents and local politicians have been opposed to the possible closure of the school should continue to function.

Dorset parents and local politicians have been opposed to the possible closure of the school on the grounds that it would hurt the community's attractiveness to potential newcomers. More recently, they have expressed a feeling that the community could grow in the immediate future because of the provincial government's commitment to increase research into the acid rain phenomenon.

In recommending a reduc-

into the acid rain phenomenon.

In recommending a reduction in the number of grades at the school, instead of complete closure, the committee acknowledged area parents' and politicians' fears that if the school were closed, it would never be reopened. Besides providing increased educational opportunities for senior students, the change to a 'K to 4' school will save the board money, the committee report notes. It says caretaking, heating and electrical costs will be cut when two of the school's four

classicolis at each of the service, and that expenditures for teachers salaries will be reduced by more than 50 percent. In addition, the committee said, the board may be able to rent out the two unused classrooms to further offset operating costs. The net saving is expected to be greater than busing costs and fees to the Muskoka Board brought about by the transfer of students to Irwin Memorial school.

Before the board voted on the committee's recommendations, members of the Dorset parents group reminded trustees that the original decision to examine the future of the school had been prompted by a projected drop in enrolment that has not yet come about, and that the parents feel will not materialize, especially if the acid rain laboratory is expanded.

Parents also expressed concern about Irwin Memorial school's ability to handle an influx of more than 20 senior students from Dorset.

A third concern centred on the problem of French, Muskoka schools begin French instruction in Kindergarten, whereas the Haliburton County Board provide French in Grade 5, and beyond.

Feeling that Dorset students would be at a distinct disadvantage when they moved on to Irwin Memorial, the parents asked board members if French could be taught from Kindergarten onward at the Dorset school, using one of the two remaining teachers.

Director of Education J. Douglas Hodgson indicated that the request could not be considered, however, because the education act re-

Echo will not publish in Christmas week

Because Christmas falls in mid week this year and in order that our staff members may enjoy the holidays, the Haliburton County Echo will publish early Christmas week. The Echo will be published on Monday, December 22, 1980. The deadline for display and classified advertising as well as for editorial submissions for that issue will be 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 20.

There will be no Echo published the week between Christmas and New Year's. Our office will be closed from December 23 through January 1 inclusive.

We thank you for your cooperation on these altered deadlines, and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Because Christmas falls in mid week this year



Students at Haliburton Highlands Senior Elementary School were warming up for Christmas holidays last week. Mrs. Carters grade seven class proudly displays their season's greetings.

Employment situation 'bleak' but new program could help

Although there may be a few more people looking for work this year, the unem-ployment rate is about aver-age for this time of year-according to the manpower Outreach office in Haliburton willage.

However, there is a possibility that 28 more jobs will be made available in the county this winter as the federal government's Canadian Community Development Program gets underway, Heppleston said.

This program will help out through the winter months and replaces the former Canada Works program, which was not available last year.

Although the program will

not effect the largest unemployment area the county has, it will provide work for women, youth, native Canadians and the handicapped, Heppleston said.

"It's mainly for women, youth and physically handicapped, so it's not even going to reach a target that we're hetty in." Heppleston added. The project will, however, add a welcome relief during Cont'd, page 3

Santa to make special visit to Haliburton this Saturday

according to the manpower Outreach office in Haliburton village.

Even though the winter months are generally a slow time in the Highlands, Manager Jayne Heppleston said the number of unemployed might be slightly higher this season.

"Things are looking a little bleak at the moment, but you know, the next day they could turn around and we could furn around and turn around and we could turn around and turn around and we could turn around and turn around and

he's made note of their wishes for his visit Wednes-day night before Christmas. And he's also said he'll be handing out presents to all the youngsters who turn up to meet him at the Legion.

entertainment for the child-ren, as well as a movie to top off the afternoon's activities.

white while the same will be the Sir Sams had best opening weekend ever

White Christmas all but certain

If this week's weather is an indication of things to come, all those who dream of a white Christmas should get their wish. A total of up to 40 cm. of snow (16 inches) has fallen on the Highlands since last Monday, and more is expected later in the week. Snowdepths now range up to 55 cm. in northern sections of the county.

Highest temperature recorded over the Monday to Monday period was 1C. Tuesday, December 9. The lowest was a bone chilling - 30C Thursday, December 11, and it was equalled Monday, December 15.

All lakes in the county are now frozen. Smaller

December 15.

All lakes inthe county are now frozen. Smaller lakes which froze several weeks ago now have up to five inches of ice. Larger lakes generally have thinner ice and lake travel is still considered hazardous.

The snow has been a boon to skiers and conditions for both cross country and downhill are

Snowmobile trails are not yet open. A gradual warming trend is expected for la the week, with more snow likely by Friday.

WELCOME HOME SCENE+"



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BRG'S ADVENT CALENDAR FOOD DRIVE



Week 3: November 29th - Dec 5th

Nov. 29 - Box of rice

Nov. 30 - Oatmeal

Dec. 1 - Pasta

Dec. 2 - Spaghetti Sauce

Dec. 3 - Chicken soup

Dec. 4 - Tomato Soup

Dec. 5 - Canned corn

*For every item donated, your name will be entered into a draw to win a Holiday Prize!

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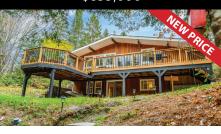
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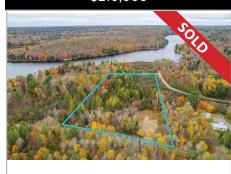


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